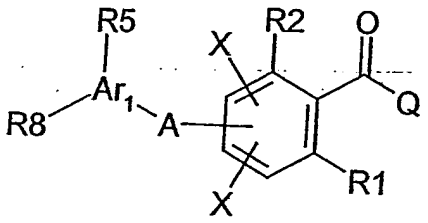
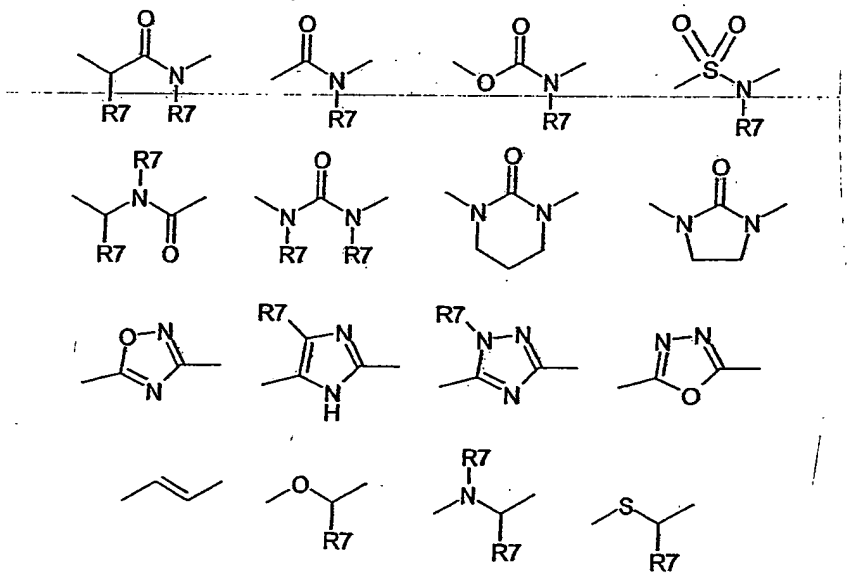
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1. (currently amended) A compound with the following structure (Formula I)



I

wherein –A- is a linker, which is selected from the group consisting of



and, wherein the linker -A- may be attached via either of the two free bonds to the Ar_1 group;

and R7 is the same or different and is hydrogen or a straight or branched C_1-C_4 alkyl or alkenyl group;

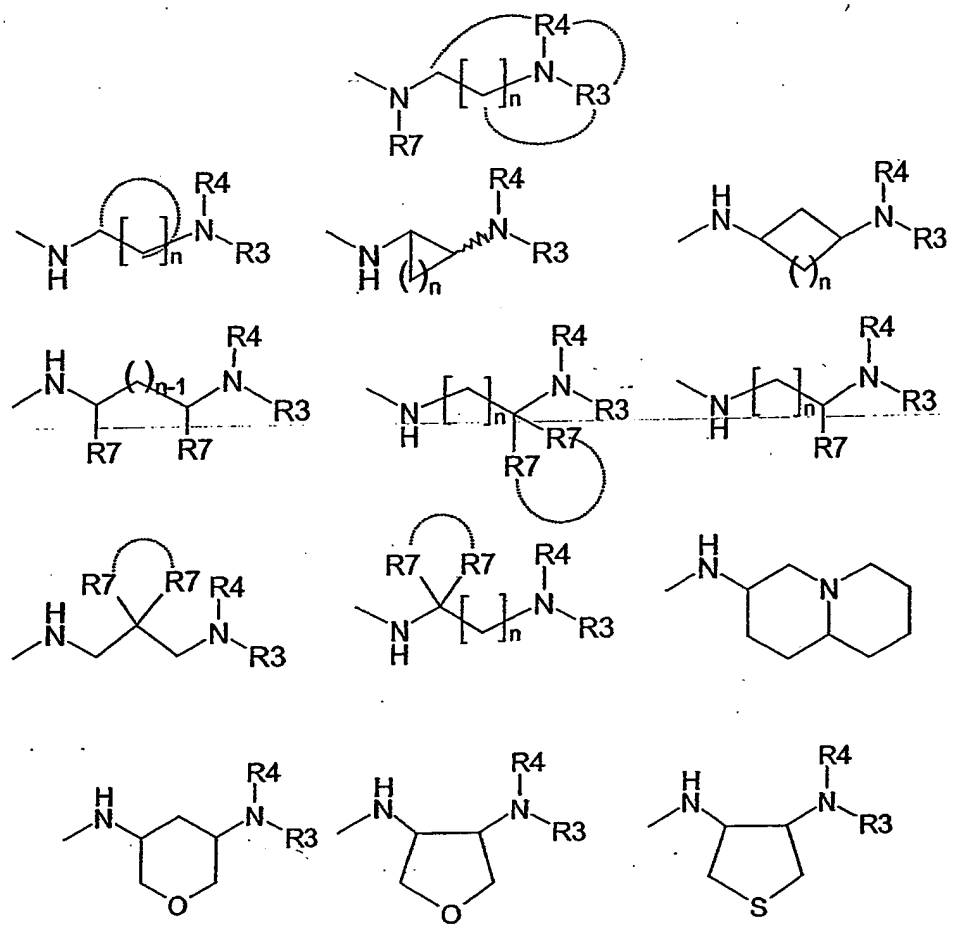
Ar_1 is an aryl or heteroaryl group ~~such as, e.g. phenyl, pyridine, pyrimidine, pyrazine, thiophene, oxazole, isothiazole, pyrazole, pyrrole, imidazole, indole, benzimidazole, quinoline, isoquinoline, furan, benzofuran, benzothiophene, benzothiazole, indazole,~~

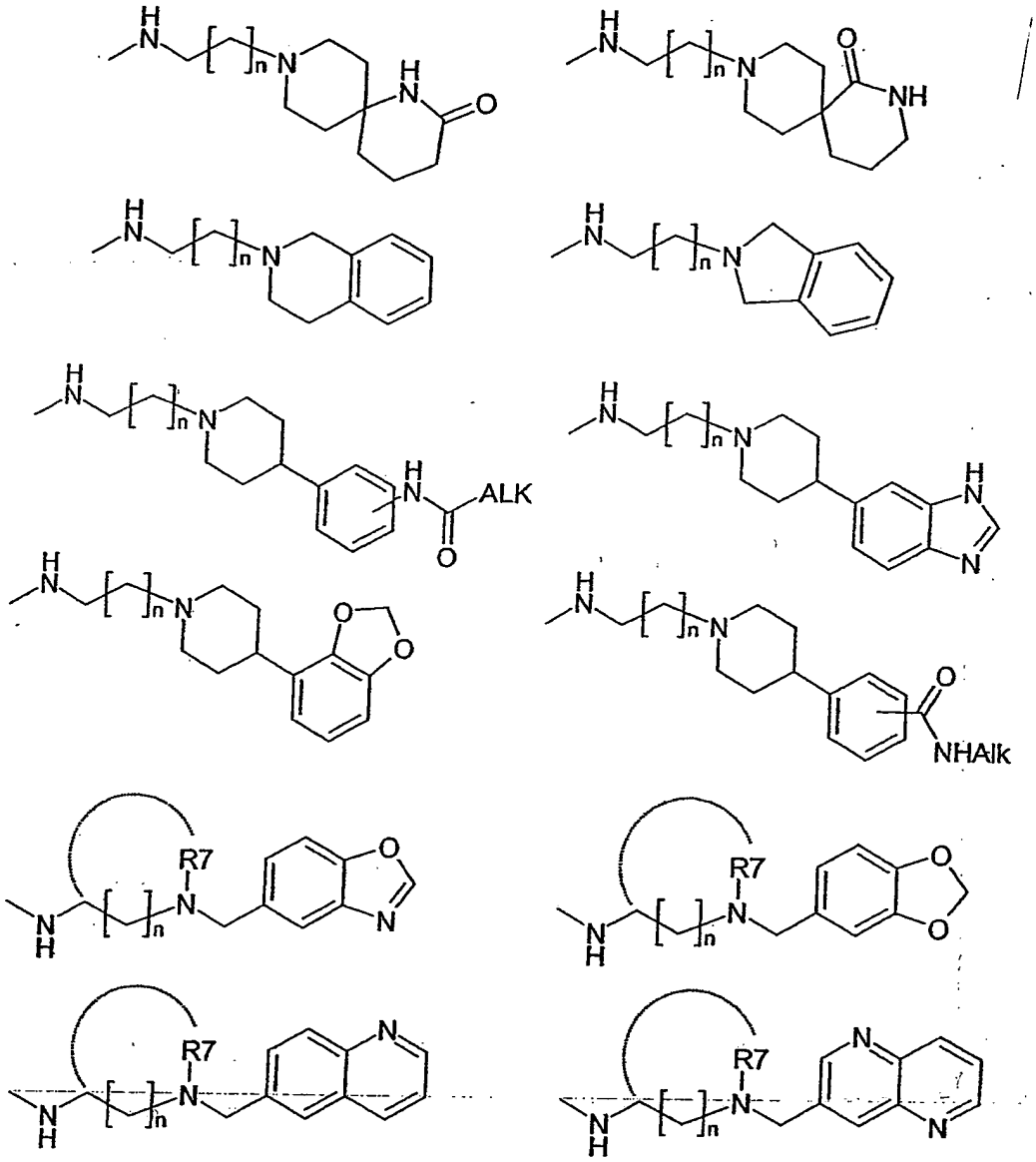
~~thiazole, isoxazole, oxadiazole, indan;~~

R1 is a lower alkoxy group alkyl-O- with one to four carbon atoms ~~and preferably one carbon~~,

R2 is an R1 group or hydrogen, an OH or an NH_2 group,

Q is selected from the group consisting of





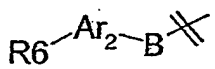
R3 and R4 are the same or different selected from straight or branched alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl groups with 1-8 carbon atoms; cycloalkyl groups with 3-7 carbon atoms; alkylcycloalkyl with 4-9 carbon atoms; alkylaryl groups ~~such as benzyl, 2-ethylphenyl, 3-propylphenyl, 4-butylphenyl~~; alkylheterocyclyl groups ~~such as 2-ethylpiperazine, 3-propyipiperidine, alkylheteroaryl groups~~; the aryl, heterocyclyl and heteroaryl groups may be optionally substituted ~~with substituents such as Alk-CONH-, Alk-O-, HO-, NC-, AlkNH-, Alk_2N-, -$CONH_2$, -CONHAlk, -$CONAlk_2$, aryl, substituted aryl, benzyl, substituted benzyl groups;~~

Alk is the same or a different alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group;
R3 and R4 may optionally be linked to each other, when possible, as indicated in Formula I; and oxygen or nitrogen atoms may be inserted in the chain or ring in a chemically stable position;

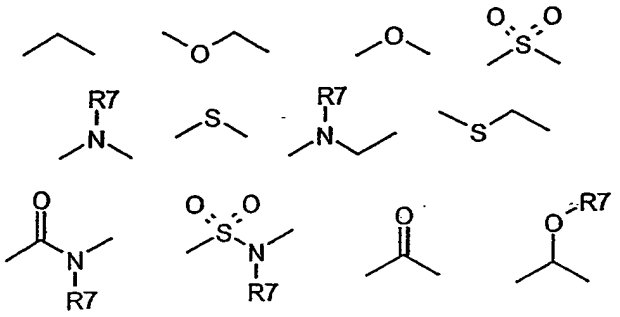
R5 is selected from hydrogen, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups (AlkO-), hydroxy, alkylamino groups (AlkNH-), dialkylamino groups (Alk_2N-), hydroxylalkyl groups, carboxamido groups (-$CONH_2$, -CONHAlk, -$CONAlk_2$), acylamido groups (-NHCO-Alk), acyl groups (-CO-Alk), - CHO, nitrile, alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl groups, -SCH_3, partially or fully fluorinated alkyl, alkoxy or thioalkoxy groups such as -CH_2CF_3, -CF_2CF_3, -CF_3, -OCF_3, -SCF_3, -SO_2NH_2, -SO_2NHAlk, -SO_2NAlk_2, -SO_2Alk;

more than one R5 group, same or different, may be present on Ar_1; when more than one 5 R5 or when one R5 and one R8 group are present they could be connected to each other, directly or with a suitable connecting moiety, to form rings;

each X being the same or different H, F, Cl, Br, I, -SCH_3, -CF_3, -OCF_3, -SCF_3, OCH_3, or lower alkyl or alkenyl group;
n is 1,2 or 3,
R8 is halogen atoms, alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl groups, cycloalkyl groups with 3-7 carbons, aryl (Ar) groups (Ar), heteroaryl groups, heterocyclyl groups, alkylcycloalkyl groups, alkylaryl groups, alkylheterocyclyl groups, alkylheteroaryl groups, arylalkoxy groups (e.g. $ArCH_2O$-), aryloxy groups (ArO-), alkoxy groups (AlkO-), dialkylamino groups (Alk_2N-), -CONHAlk, - CONHAr -$CONAlk_2$, -NHCO-Alk, -NHCO-Ar, -CO-Alk, -CO-Ar, -SCH_3, partially or fully fluorinated alkyl, alkoxy or thioalkoxy groups such as -CH_2CF_3, -CF_2CF_3, -CF_3, -OCF_3, -SCF_3;
or R8 has the structure



in which B is a single bond or a connecting moiety selected from the group consisting of:

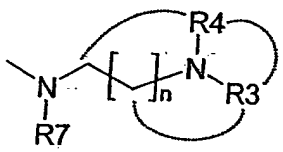


which may be attached via either of the two free bonds to the Ar_t group;

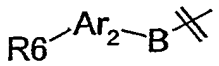
Ar_2 is an aryl or heteroaryl group ~~such as e.g. phenyl, pyridine, pyrimidine, pyrazine, 3θ thiophene, oxazole, isothiazole, pyrazole, pyrrole, imidazole, indole, benzimidazole, quinoline, isoquinoline, furan, benzofuran, benzothiophene, benzothiazole, indazole, thiazole, isoxazole, oxadiazole, indan~~;

R6 is selected from hydrogen, halogen ~~atoms~~, alkoxy ~~groups~~ (AlkO-), hydroxy, alkylamino ~~groups~~ (AlkNH-), dialkylamino ~~groups~~ (Alk_2N-), hydroxylalkyl ~~groups~~, carboxamido ~~groups~~ (-$CONH_2$, -CONHAlk, -$CONAlk_2$), acylamido ~~groups~~ (-NHCO-Alk), acyl ~~groups~~ (-CO-Alk), - CHO, nitrile, alkyl, alkenyl, ~~or~~ alkynyl ~~groups~~, -SCH_3, partially or fully fluorinated alkyl, alkoxy or thioalkoxy ~~groups such as -CH_2CF_3, -CF_2CF_3, -CF_3, -OCF_3, -SCF_3, -SO_2NH_2, -SO_2NHAlk, -SO_2NAlk_2, -SO_2Alk~~;
more than one R6 group, same or different, may be present on Ar_2; when more than one R6 group is present they could be connected to each other to form rings.

Claim 2. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Q is

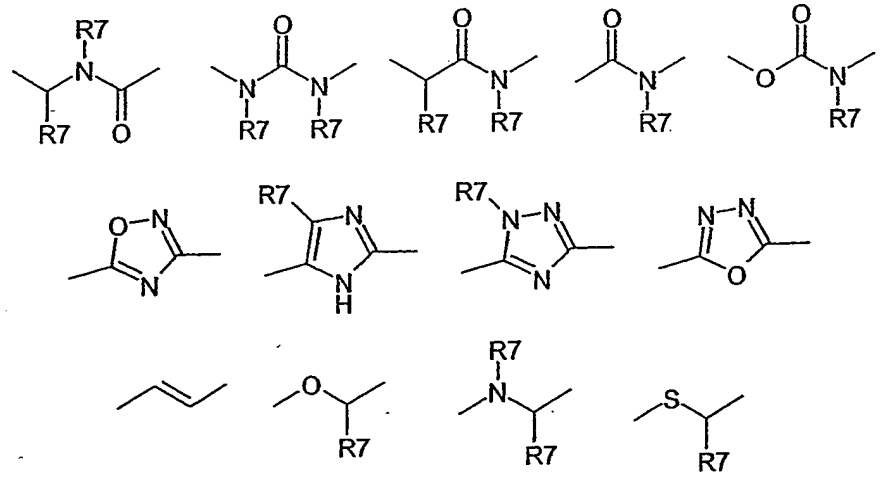


Claim 3. (currently amended) A compound cording to claim 1 or 2, wherein R8 is



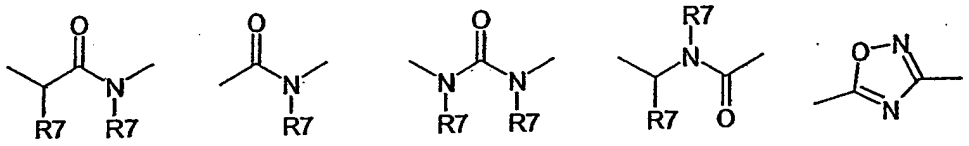
Claim 4. (currently amended) A compound according to claim ~~1 or 2~~, wherein R8 is selected from halogen atoms, alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl groups, cycloalkyl groups with 3-7 carbons, aryl groups (Ar), heteroaryl groups, heterocyclyl groups, alkylcycloalkyl groups, alkylaryl groups, alkylheterocyclyl groups, alkylheteroaryl groups, arylalkoxy groups ~~(e.g. $ArCH_2O$-)~~, aryloxy groups (ArO-), alkoxy groups (AlkO-), dialkylamino groups (Alk_2N-), -CONHAlk, -CONHAr, -$CONAlk_2$, -NHCO-Alk, -NHCO-Ar, -CO-Alk, -CO-Ar, -CF_3, -OCF_3, -SCF_3, or SCH_3.

Claim 5. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein A is selected from the group consisting of:



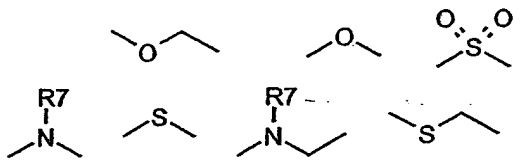
wherein R7 is as defined in claim 1.

Claim 6. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein A is selected from the group consisting of:



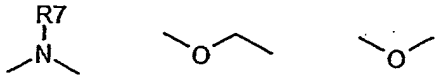
wherein R7 is as defined in claim 1.

Claim 7. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any claims 1-3, 5, 6,~~ wherein B is a single bond or selected from the group consisting of:



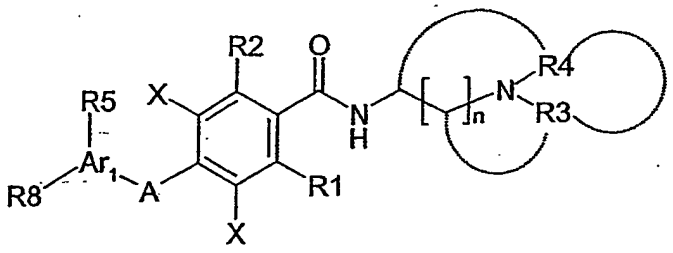
wherein R7 is as defined in claim 1.

Claim 8. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 7, wherein B is selected from the group consisting of:



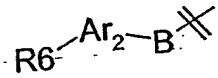
wherein R7 is as defined in claim 1.

Claim 9. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ with the following structure



wherein Ar_i, Ar_2, A, B, RI, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R7, R8, X and n are defined as in claim 1.

Claim 10. (original) A compound according to claim 9, wherein R8 is



Claim 11. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein the -B- moiety is not placed ortho to the -A- linker.

Claim 12. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein Ar_i and Ar_2 are the same or different aryl or heteroaryl groups ~~such as, e.g., phenyl, pyridine, thiophene.~~

Claim 13. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein R2 is hydrogen.

Claim 14. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~claim 1 any of the preceding claims~~, wherein R2 is hydrogen and X is H, F, Cl, Br, I, CF_3, OCF_3, SCF_3, SCH_3 or lower alkyl or alkenyl group.

Claim 15. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~claim 1 any of the preceding claims~~, wherein R2 is H and X is H or F.

Claim 16. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~claim 1 any of the preceding claims~~, wherein R5 and R6 may be the same or different selected from hydrogen, halogen ~~atoms~~, alkoxy ~~groups~~ (AlkO-), alkyamino ~~groups~~ (AlkNH-), dialkylamino ~~groups~~ (Alk_2N-), carboxamido ~~groups~~ (-$CONH_2$, -CONHAlk, $CONAlk_2$), acylamido ~~groups~~ (-NHCO-Alk), nitrile, lower alkyl groups, -CF_3, -OCF_3, -SCF_3, -SCH_3.

Claim 17. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ in amorphous or crystalline form.

Claim 18. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ in racemic or enantiomeric 5 form.

Claim 19. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ in the form of a physiologically acceptable salt, complex, solvate or prodrug thereof.

Claims 20-35. (cancelled)

Claim 36. (currently amended) A cosmetic method for reducing overweight and/or for treating of and/or preventing overweight, bulimia, bulimia nervosa, obesity and/or complications thereto, the method comprising administering to an animal ~~such as, e.g. a human~~ in need thereof, an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-23 or 25-34~~.

Claim 37. (currently amended) A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diseases caused by a melanin-concentrating hormone, the method comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an ~~effectiveefficient~~ amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-35~~.

Claim 38. (currently amended) A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diseases caused by feeding disorders, the method comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an ~~effectiveefficient~~ amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-34~~.

Claim 39. (currently amended) A method for modifying the feeding behaviour of a mammal, the method comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an ~~effectiveefficient~~ amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-34~~.

Claim 40. (currently amended) A method for the reduction of body mass, the method comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective ~~efficient~~ amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-23 or 25-34~~.

Claim 41. (currently amended) A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of Syndrome X (metabolic syndrome) or any combination of obesity, insulin resistance, dyslipidemia, impaired glucose tolerance and hypertension, the method comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective~~efficient~~ amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-23 or 25-34~~.

Claim 42. (currently amended) A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of Type II diabetes or Non Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (NIDDM), the method comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective ~~efficient~~ amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-23 or 25-34~~.

Claim 43. (currently amended) A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of bulimia, bulimia nervosa and/or obesity, the method comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective ~~efficient~~ amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-23 or 25-34~~.

Claim 44. (currently amended) A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of depression and/or anxiety, the method comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective ~~efficient~~ amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-24 or 35~~.

Claim 45. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-35~~ or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof together with one or more physiologically acceptable excipients.

Claim 46. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 45, wherein the compound is present in the form of a physiologically acceptable salt ~~such as a salt formed between the compound and an inorganic acid such as e.g., a hydrochloride, a hydrobromide, a hydroiodide, a nitrate, a nitrite, a H_3P0_3 salt, a H_3PO_4 salt, a H_2SO_3 salt, a sulfate, a H_2SO_5 salt, or a salt formed between the compound and~~ an organic acid ~~such as organic acids like e.g. H_2CO_3, acetic acid, C_2H_5COOH, C_3H_7000H, C_4H_9COOH, $(COOH)_2$, $CH_2(COOH)_2$, $C_2H_5(COOH)_2$, $C_3H_6(000H)_2$, C4H8(COOH)2, $C_5H_19(000H)_2$, fumaric acid, maleic acid, lactic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, ascorbic acid, benzoic acid, salicylic acid and phthalic acid~~.

Claim 47. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 45 ~~or 46~~ for enteral and/or parenteral use.

Claim 48. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 45 ~~or 46~~ for oral, buccal, rectal, nasal, topical, vaginal or ocular use.

Claim 49. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 45 ~~any of claims 45-48~~ in the form of a solid, semi-solid or fluid composition.

Claim 50. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 49 in solid form, wherein the composition is in the form of one or more tablets ~~tablets such as, e.g. conventional tablets, effervescent tablets, coated tablets, melt tablets or sublingual tablets, pellets, powders, granules, or particulate material~~.

Claim 51. (original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 49 in semi-solid form, wherein the composition is in the form of a chewing gum, an ointment, a cream, a liniment, a paste, a gel or a hydrogel.

Claim 52. (original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 49 in fluid form, wherein the composition is in the form of a solution, an emulsion, a

suspension, a dispersion, a liposomal composition, a spray, a mixture, or a syrup.

Claim 53. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 46 ~~any of claims 46-52~~ comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claims.

Claim 54. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 53, wherein the amount is from about 0.001 mg to about 1 g ~~such as, e.g. from about 0.005 to about 750 mg, from about 0.01 to about 500 mg, from about 0.05 to about 500 mg, from about 0.1 to about 250 mg, from about 0.1 to about 100 mg or from about 0.5 to about 50 mg~~.

Claim 55. (cancelled)